

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 573

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Clyde Stephens, Jr., of Franklin.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Clyde Stephens, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stephens was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a highly successful businessman, Clyde Stephens served with decorum and integrity as founder of Williamson Memorial & Spring Hill Memorial Funeral Homes; and

WHEREAS, the son of the late Clyde Sr. and Wilma McCrory Stephens, he was born in Marshall County but was a longtime resident of Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stephens was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served admirably during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, a magnate of our State's funeral industry, Mr. Stephens started his career in 1969 when he began working at the former Franklin Memorial Chapel; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, he began managing Williamson Memorial Gardens before going on to found Williamson Memorial Funeral Home in 1980; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, he opened Spring Hill Memorial Park & Funeral Home with his family in Spring Hill, thus solidifying his professional legacy; and

WHEREAS, a respected member of his profession, Mr. Stephens served two terms as the president of the Cemetery Association of Tennessee and was named Cemeterian of the Year in 1999; and

WHEREAS, he also served in various leadership roles with the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, including a tenure as president from 2004 to 2005; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stephens was an active and devout member of Mt. Carmel Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Stephens was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Irene Lloyd, as well as his brother-in-law, Buddy Jennette. He is survived by his sons, David Stephens and Gary Stephens; his daughter, Pam Stephens; his sister, Dorothy Jennette; his grandchildren, Matt Martin, Mandi Marlin, Casey Stephens, Chris Stephens, and Marlee Stephens; his great-grandchildren, Stirlin and Langley Marlin, Matti Martin, and Everett Stephens; and the mother of his children, Nellie Jo Stephens; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Stephens leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Clyde Stephens, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Stephens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.